(ii) Two dry docks at Netaji Subhas Dock in Calcutta along with an adjacent area have been leased out for ship repair facilities at Calcutta Dock System.

Proposal to improve National Highways in Bihar

5598. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to improve national highways passing through Bihar during the current year;

(b) whether there is also a proposal to connect Patna to Muzzafarpur which is at a distance of about seventy five kilometers, with the national highways going to Nepal; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir. The Annual Plan 1995-96 provides for the improvement works amounting to Rs. 161.00 crores proposed to be taken up on National Highways in Bihar;

(b) and (c) No, Sir. At present there is no such proposal under consideration of the Government.

Reported poor condition of roads

5599. SHRI T. VENKATRAM REDDY:

SHRI G. PRATHAPA REDDY:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state.

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Dangerous roads deter NRI investor's, appearing in the Times of India dated the 9th January, 1995;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table the House.

Delay in execution of work pertaining to National highways 17 and 48

5600. SHRI T. VENKATRAM REDDY:

SHRI G. PRATHAPA REDDY:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the abnormal delay in sanctioning administrative approval and financial assistance, even for the approved works in the Ministry of Surface Trasport;

(b) if so, the number of such works pending execution and since when; and

(c) the reasons for delay in execution of the work of construction of a new bridge across river Netherapathi on National Highway 48 at Panemangalore and a new bridge across river Sharavathi on National Highway 17 at Honnavar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) Administrative approval and financial sanction for the works included in the Annual Plans is a continuous activity and is subject to availability of funds and inter-se priority of works. Execution of works by States is followed by a tendering procedure for selection of contractors.

(c) The work of construction of a new bridge across river Netheravathi on NH-48 has been sanctioned and the State PWD have already been advised to award the work to the selected contractor. The proposal to construct a new bridge across river